From: rpm@wag.caltech.edu@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 11:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am very disappointed with the DOJ's treatment of Microsoft. I am a
software professional, and frequently use both Microsoft and
non-Microsoft products. In the trial the DOJ, and particularly David
Boies, did an exceptional job of demonstrating that Microsoft has acted
as a predatory monopoly. Unfortunately, the punishment that the DOJ
under the new administration has negotiated with Microsoft is far milder
than the crime dictates. Microsoft was, and continues to be, a predatory
monopoly, with business practices that endanger other companies that
seek to compete with it. Microsoft has engaged in a public relations
campaign that talks about their freedom to innovate, but how about the
freedom of Netscape or Sun? How about the freedom of Linux developers to
create Samba, a program that allows inexpensive Linux machines to act as
file servers for Windows computers? How about the freedom of companies
that depend upon high quality software to have an alternative to
Microsofts overpriced and undertested software?

Our nation's economic strength over the next 20 years will depend to a
large extend on our ability to develop computer hardware and software.
Microsoft has already hurt the ability of many companies to compete on a
level playing field. These are companies that might have created the
next revolution, a revolution that may have created taxable income for
those companies, and employed Americans who would then earn and spend
and pay taxes. This doesn't just hurt those companies, it hurts America
itself.

The only proper punishment for Microsoft is to split the company into OS
and an applications divisions, but the DOJ has perhaps already announced
that it will not try and split Microsoft. Please, seriously consider the
idea of forcing Microsoft to sell and support a version of Microsoft
Office on Linux, which is probably the last appropriate punishment
remaining to the DOJ.

Respectfully yours,
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